

# The Life and Death of Mother Shipton.

Being not only a true Account of her strange Birth; and most important Passages of her Life; but also all her Prophesies, now newly Collected, and Historically Experienced, from the time of her Birth, in the Reign of King Henry the Seventh, until this present Year 1667. Containing the most Important Passages of State during the Reign of these Kings and Queens of England following,

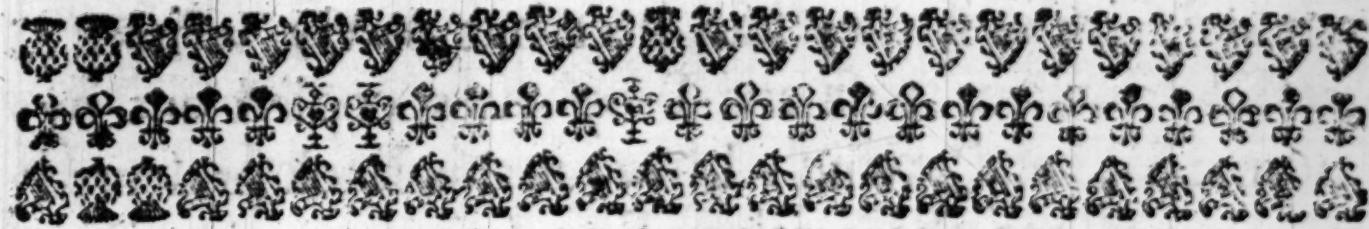
Viz. { Henry the Eighth.  
Edward the Sixth  
Queen Mary  
Queen Elizabeth. } { King James.  
King Charles the First.  
King Charles the Second.

Strangely preserved amongst other Writings belonging to an old Monastery in York-shire, and now published for the Information of Posterity.



LONDON, Printed for B. Harris, at the Stationers Arms in Sweetings- Alley,  
near the Royal Exchange in Cornhill, 1677.





Beloved Countrey-men ;

The great Fame, and general received Opinion  
of *Mother Shipton*, with the Credit she hath ob-  
tained by those several *Prophecies* uttered by her,  
which since in the greatest measure have come to pass :  
These considerations ( I say ) put me upon a Resoluti-  
on to search out by my best endeavour, the Parents,  
Place, and Time wherein this *Mother Shipton* Flourish-  
ed. Many old Manuscripts and rusty Records I turn-  
ed over, but all in vain ; at last I was informed by a  
Gentleman ( whose Ancestors by the Gift of King Henry  
the Eighth, enjoyed a *Monastery* in those parts ) that  
he had in his keeping some ancient Writings which would  
in that point satisfie my desire, were they not so injured  
by Time, as now not legible to Read ; however, I not  
despairing to find out their meaning, with much Im-  
portunity desired to have a sight of them ; which hav-  
ing obtained, I took of the best Galls I could get, beat  
them grossly, and laid them to steep one day in good  
white-Wine, that done, I distilled them with the Wine ;  
and with the distilled Water that came off them, I wet-  
ted handsomly the old Letters, whereby they seemed as

fresh and fair, as if they had been but newly written; here did I find her Life and Prophesies copied out by an impartial hand, which I have in this Book presented to thy view, together with an Exposition upon her Prophesies, for the better understanding of them, and which may serve to them whose leisure will not permit to read, or want of money forbid to buy more Voluminous Authors; this ( I say ) may serve to them instead of a Chronicle, wherein they may find related the chiefest matters performed in each King and Queens Reign since the time wherein she flourished: much more might be added, but least I should exceed the bounds of an Epistle, and like the Citizens of *Mindium*, make my Gates too bigg for my City, I shall here break off abruptly, wishing thee as much pleasure in the Reading thereof, as I had in the VVriting of it; and so

• *Farewel.*

*R. Head.*

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## POSTSCRIPT.

Ourious Reader, let me desire thee Candidly to pass over some seemingly Impossibilities in the first sheet, (allowing the Author *Licentia Poetica* in her description) and some Actions performed in her Minority; and only to weigh the more serious parts of her Prophesies, wherein (if thou bee'st rational) I doubt not but thou wilt receive ample satisfaction.



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T H E

THE  
LIFE and DEATH  
OF  
MOTHER SHIPTON.

CHAP. I.

What her Father and Mother were, and what Wonderful things happened at her Birth, as also the place of Her Nativity.

In the Second Year of King Henry the Seventh, which was in the Year of our Lord One thousand Four hundred Eighty and six there lieth a Woman called Agatha Shipton, at a place called Naseborough near the Dropping-Well in York-shire. She came of poor Parentage, who died and left her to shift for her self, at the Age of fifteen. After their decease, she still inhabited in the Old House, but being now deprived of those helps she formerly enjoyed conduicible to a lively-hood, she was constrained to seek relief from the Parish: which she did, but with so much regret and grief, that she seemed in her beggling rather to command Alms, than in an humble manner to desire it. At length she arrived to that pase, that she was upon the matter starbing, rather then she would be beholding to the charity of any.

The Devil looking on her poverty to be great, and knowing her evil inclinations by her complexion ( for you must understand, that the Devil is a great Scholar, well read in all things, and much acquainted with the constitutions of all sorts of persons. ) I say, perceiving that she was willing to accept of any proposition to change her condition. The one time as she was sitting melancholy under a Tree by a River side, accosted her in the form of a very handsome young man, well apparel'd with

with all things suitable to a youthful garb. Pretty Maid, ( quoth he ) why dost thou sit so sad? Thy age is too slender for thy head to be troubled with cares of the World; come tell me what is the matter, and if it lie within my power to assist thee ( as I am sure it doth ) thou shalt not want a friend of me.

Agatha casting up her eyes, and there seeing a face so lovely, could not suspect a Devil hid in that comely shape; whereupon in a lamentable tone she express all that troubled her, informing him of her great wants, and that knowing not how to work, she could not provide what her necessaries required: Pish ( said the Devil ) this is nothing, be ruled by me, and all shall be well; she told him she would; whereupon he ordered her to meet him at the same place the next day, and he would bring some friends along with him, for he told her he resolued to marry her; she promised him she would, and accordingly they met. He came riding upon a stately Horse, with a pillion behind for his Spouse, attended by a great many Gallants ( as they appeared ) well mounted, and in a noble equipage.

His Devilish attendants soon conveyed his Mistress behind him, as she imagined; not in the least doubting the reality of all she saw.

They needed neither switch nor spurr to hasten them forward, the Horses were fiery enough of themselves, and ran with that swiftness that the wind could not over-take them in their full speed; soon they arrived at their journeys end, where seemed to be a very stately House, with a great pair of Gates, which at their approach opened by a Porter with his stick, in his Liberty-gown: Alighting, she went in, where she saw a great many servants, which seemed at the sight of her and their Master, to shew much respect and obeisance.

Now did the Devil command rich Garments to be brought, which she was immediately cloath'd with, and being thus richly attir'd, she was usher'd into a great Hall, where was a long Table furnish'd with all the Varieties the whole world could afford; at the upper end of which table she was placed, next her the Friend her intended husband; all the rest of the guests did place themselves as they thought fit. As they had the choicest cheere, so had they the best of Wines, and sweetest Musick.

Dinner being ended, they fell to Dancing; and now could my lecherous Devil stay no longer, but he must needs walk a courant with his Mistress into another private room, and there courted her to lust; the simple

Simple Girel consented, and so they both went to bed together, with the Ceremonies of Marriage. His touches (as she confessed to the Midwife that delivered her of her Devilish Off-spring) were as cold as ice, or snow. After they had lain a little while together, he told her what he was, and what she must do hereafter, if she intended to live happy and delightful days. First, he told her that he was no Mortal, but a Spirit immaterial, and not burdened by a body, nor hindred by any material thing; So that I can when I please pierce through the Earth and ransack its Treasures, and bring what precious things I please from thence to bestow on those that serve me. I know all rare Arts and Sciences, and can teach them to whom I please. I can disturb the Element, stir up Thunders and Lightnings, destroy the best of things which were created for the use of man, and can appear in what shape, or form I please. It will be too long to describe my power, or tell thee what I can do; but will only tell thee what thou shalt do. That being done, I will give thee power to raise Hail, Tempests, with lightning and Thunder; the Winds shall be at thy command, and shall bear thee whither thou art willing to go, though never so far off, and shall bring thee back again when thou hast a mind to return. The hidden treasures of the Earth shall be at thy dispose and pleasure, and nothing shall be wanting to compleat thy happiness here. Thou shalt moreover, heal or kill whom thou pleasest; destroy or preserue either man or beast; know what is past, and assuredly tell what is to come. Here note by the way, the Devil is a Liar from the beginning, and will promise more by ten millions, than he knows he is capable to perform, to the intent he may insnare and damn a soul.

This poor ignorant wretch easily believ'd what this Grand Deceiver of Man kind told her; and being rabish't with the thoughts of being so highly prefer'd. She condescended to all the Devil would have her do: whereupon he bid her say after him, in this manner: Raziel ellimiham irammish ziragia sonth onphanchia Raphael elhaveruna capino-gambecaz mitzphecat jarid cuman hapheah Gabriel Heydoncurris dungonis philonomostarkes sophecord hankim. After she had repeated these words after him, he plucks her by the Groin, and there immediately grew a kind of Tit, which he instantly suckt, telling her that must be his constant Custom with her morning and evening; now did he bid her say after him again, Kametz zaph Odel Pharaz Tumbagin Gall Flemmingen Victow Denmarkeonto. having finish't his last hellish

Speech, which the chiefeſt of his opinions understand not, out of which none but the Devil himself can pick out the meaning; I ſay it thundred ſo horridly, that every clap ſeemed as if the baulted roof of Heaven had crackt and was tumbling down on her head; and withal that ſtately paſſage which ſhe thought ſhe had been in, baniſht in a trice; ſo did her ſumptuous apparel: and now her eyes being opened, ſhe found her ſelf in a dark doleſon Wood; a place which from the Creation, had ſcarce ever injoyed the beneſit of one ſingle Sun-beam. Whilſt ſhe was thinking what course to ſteer in order to her return, two flaming fiery Dragons appear'd before her tied to a Chariot, and as ſhe was consulting with her ſelf what was best to be done, ſhe inſenſibly was hoiſted into it, and with ſpeed unimaginable conveyed through the Air to her own poor Cottagē.

## C H A P. II.

How the Devil conſtantly viſited her, in what Forms and Shapes; what ſtrange things ſhe did to thoſe that offend'd her, harming ſome, and making ſport with others; and at length brought to Bed of a Child, which is commonly caſtled, Mother Shipton.

B eing come home, the Neighboors flockt about her, having miſt her two or three days, ſhrewdly ſuſpecting ſome miſchieſ had befallen her; but when they beheld her face they were all amazed, to ſee ſuch a ſtrange alteration in her countenance, in ſo ſhort a time; and here the Proverb was veriſied in her: She lookeſt as if a Hagg had rid her. Before ſhe met with this wanton Devil, ſhe lookeſt plump and fresh, which were all the good quaſties ſhe had in her ill featured face; but now that red plumpnes baniſht, and there was nothing to be ſeen but a pale ſcribuled ſkin on her cheekeſ, which for want of flesh ſeemed to fall in her mouth, to be devoured by her hunger-starved jaws. Those about her which were charitable minded, pitied her, comforted and gaue her monys, which with a great deal of diſdain and ſcoȝ ſhe threſt them, ſaying, ſhe wanted not, nor stood in need of their Alms; for looke ye here ( ſaid ſhe ) is mony enough, plucking her hand out of her pocket, the people drawing near her, diſcoſered that what was in her hands

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hands, was nothing else but some Aspin-leaves: and notwithstanding, they endeavoured to perswade her that she was mistaken in supposing that to be money, yet would she not believe them; so strong a Power the Devil had gotten over her already.

In fine, she did bid them all be gone, soz now she began to take little delight in humane Society: It was not long that they had left her, before the Devil (with whom she made a Hellish Contract) came in to see her, in the same handsome young form as he first appeared unto her, telling her that he came to supply the company of those she had wisely dismissest, that she needed not the Society of humane creatures, for he would not fail to be constantly with her; always bringing with him what should not only serue for a bare Livelihood, but her Delight, Pleasure, and Satisfaction: Hereupon by the Devil's command, there instantly appeared seemingly, a compleat noise of Musick, with Dishes of Meat, great variety of the choicest and most pleasing sort: which so rabished Agatha, that she fell to the ground in a very profound and deep trance. One of her Neighbours coming in this while, wondered to see Agatha lying on the floor motionless; howeber out of pity and commiseration, she kneeled down, and having crost her self, and said a short prayer, she endeavoured to waken Agatha, but using what means she could, it all signified nothing; she shook and pincht her, and pulled her by the nose, yet still she lay insensibly: This Neighbouring-woman being strangely amazed and scared hereat, ran out amongst the rest of the Neighbours, crying out, that poor Agatha Shipton was suddenly struck dead, and so desired them to go into the house with her, and they should there be the eye-witnesses of the truth thereof; whereupon several went and found what this woman had said, to be seemingly true: but one wiser then the rest stooped down and perceiving that she breathed, spake aloud, Friends, ye are all mistaken, Agatha is not dead, but in a trance, or else she is bewitched; she had scarce uttered these words before Agatha began to stir; and soon after, raised her self on her leggs, crying out in a very distracted tone, What make ye here, bile wretches: Cannot I enjoy my pleasures, but ye must be Ches-droppings: get ye gone, as having nothing to do here, and hereupon she fell a dauncing, which they wondered at because they could here no Musick. At length Agatha turning about, and seeing they were not gone; said, if ye are resolved thus to disturb me, and will not go, I will make ye: this something affrighted them, for they now

verily believed she was a witch; and as they were hastning away with all imaginable speed, a sudden strong wind hoisted them a great height into the air, falling all to the ground again without the least harm, only some shame to the women, for they descended with their heads downwards, their coats over their ears, their lower parts appearing all naked to the astonished spectators; the men were seen like overgrown Goats with larg horns on their heads, and women riding on their backs: which sights as they produced inexpressible wonder, so amidst their amazement, they could not but burst out into excessive laughter.

This wonderful and unexpected exploit, was instantly noised all about the Country, which occasioned a great resort of people to the place where Agitha lived; whch so perplex her by their undesred visits, that she resolued within her self to be revenged on some of them; which by the Devils help she effected; mischieving some in their persons, others in their cartel, and others in their credits: one had a Happle that dreyd suddenly, and being opened, there was found in his stomach fish-hooks, and hair, instead of Hay and Dats. Another going to sit down at Table with persons of good quality at dinner-time, and thinking himself very spruce and fine, had in an instant his Buisse pull'd off, and the seat of an House of Office clapt on in its place, he that sat next him, breaking out into a great laughter at the sight thereof, was serv'd little better; for his Hatt was invisibly conveyed away, and the Pan of a Close-stool which stood in the next room, put on instead thereof; A modest young Gentlewoman whch did sit at the Table at that time, on no other errand but to see this young witch whch was so much talked of; looking on these two woorthy spectacles of laughter, endeavoured all she could to restrain laughing, but could not, and withal continued farting for above a quarter of an hour; this made them all laugh so extreamly that the Master of the house was as hum'd (helyw) therewith, and being desirous to share with his Guests in their mirth, came running up stairs as fast as his legs would carry him, about to enter the door, he could not, and no wonder, since the oldest man living, never saw a larger pair of horns then he had on his head: whilst they were gazing one on another as more then half distracted, they were all reduced to the same condition they were in before; after which there followed a noise, as if an hundred persons were laughing together, but nothing at all was seen.

These

These persons fearing something worse might befall them if they staid any longer, made all the hast they could to be gone: Agatha knowing their intent resolued to take her farkeel of them by serding them one trick more, which was thus; As they were about to mount on Horseback, they were pelted with rotten Apples, Dung, and stuff that smelt worse then can be imagined. As they rid through the Town, such men as thought they rid singly, were all obserued to habe behind them a deformed old woman; and as their Faces differ'd all one from another, so did their habits, which were all ratter'd and ragged, and patcht with a hundred colours, fear, shame, and the hooting of the people, made them put spurs to their Horses, neither did they forbear the stilech, nor any thing that might add speed to their Horses heels, so that it may be said, they rather flew then rode; how could it be otherwise: for needs must he go whom the Devil drives.

Coming home, they declare what wonderful things they had seen performed, though by a young one, yet as they believed the greatest witch in the world: this news being so generally spred, came at length to the ear of the Justices, who now thought it high-time to question and bring into examination a person that was so much talked of, and might, if let alone, do a great deal of mischief.

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C H A P.



## C H A P. III

How *Agatha Shipton* was apprehended and brought before a Justice; what her Confession was, her Mittimus being made to be sent to Prison; how she escaped by the help of her friend, the Fiend; she is retaken, and being found with Child, is bail'd.

**A**gatha is now no longer suspected, but plainly known to be a witch, doing something or other daily which was very remarkable; she hath been frequently observed to walk alone muttering to her self, and having been watcht by some, they have seen her stamp upon the ground thrice, then wound her hands over her head, lastly, she spake one word thrice, and in the twinkling of an eye, the sky hath been dark and gloomy, though clear before, which belcht out nothing for half an hour but flames, thundring after a most hideous manner.

But

But now the time draweth on, wherein she must give an account for what she hath done, and in order thereunto, she is apprehended by two resolute fellows, who were not a whit daunted when they entered the house, though Toads, Adders, and such like noisome creatures crawled up and down the house, but could not chuse but be much startled when they seiz'd her and were carrying her, to hear such a terrible crack of thunder, the house at that time reeling too and fro like a Cradle.

However they carried her before the Justice, where being brought, she was strictly examined by him; she not a jot daunted, told him that she had more authority than he, and that notwithstanding his power, she could command one that could over-rule him when he list; That she was a Princess, and could have at her beck a thousand Spirits of the Air, and as many of the Earth and Water; That for could raise a Tempest presently, that should overturn his house about his ears; and that you may know, it lies not in your power to detain me, three words shall procure my liberty: whereupon she said Updraxi, call Stygicon Helluox, she had not scarce uttered the last word, before there came in a horrid winged-Dragon, which immediately took her up, and carried her away from the amazed Justice and Attendants about him, half dead with fear.

This so affrighted all that heard of it, that none would undertake to meddle with her more; so that she had a considerable time of respite. But she now began to be more admitt'd than before, being discovered by the great swelling of her Belly, to be with Child: The people could not tell what to think, or who should be the Father, concluding that none would be so vile and wicked, as to have Copulation with a Devil incarnate; neither could they believe a Spirit had either desire or power, to generate with any humane Creature; while people were generally passing their verdicts on Agatha, she was once more taken and brought before a Justice, and amongst other questions, was asked, whether she was with Child, she acknowledged it; nay further, that it was begot by no mortal Wight: The Justice gave no credit to what she said, as looking on her as an ignorant seduced Woman; and so askt her what Waile she could produce, intending to defer the business till she was Delivered; in this very nick of time two Gentlemen as they appeared by their habits, voluntarily proffered themselves, which as soon as accepted for Waile, banish't presently, however Agatha had permission to go home.

## C H A P. I V.

What kind of shape Mother Shipton had when she was born: How she was put to Nurse at the charge of the Parish; and what strange things were seen in that House where she was Nurst, during the time of four years.

**T**he usual time of forty weeks being expired, her Mother, after many strange and horrible Torments which she underwent in her Crabil, was at last delivred (by the rare skill and industry of her Midwife, and others of that Art) of her, which is now called, Mother Shipton, which prooved the conclusion of her miserable Life. But her entry into the world was such a terror to all that beheld her, that several credible persons then present, have several times confess that they never beheld the like: Such strange and horrible noyses, that the persons concern'd about her, could scarce find so much courage in themselves as to continue in the place where she was, much less when they beheld the strange and unparalleld Phisognomy of the Child, which was so mishapen, that it is altogether impossible to express it fully in words, or the most ingeniuous to Limn her in colours, though many persons of eminent qualifications in that Art have often attempted it, but without any success; therefore according to the best observations of her, take this true, though not full account of her features, and body: she was of an indifferent height, but very moose and big bon'd, her head very long, with very greate goggling, but sharp and fiery Eyes, her Nose of an incredible and unproportionable length, having in it many crooks and turnings, adorned with many strange Pimples of divers colours, as Red, Wlew, and mist, which like Mapours of Brimstone gabe such a lustre to her affrighted spectators in the dead time of the Night, that one of them confessed several times in my hearing, that her Nurse needed no other light to assist her, in the performance of her duty: Her Cheeks were of a black swarthy complexion, much like a mixture of the Black and yellow jaundies; wrinkled, shrivelled and very hollow; insomuch, that as the Kibbs of her Body, so the impre-  
ssion

son of her teeth were easily to be discerned, through both sides of her face, answering one side to the other, like the notches in a Waller, excepting only two of them which stood quite out of her mouth, in imitation of the Tusks of a wild Boar, or the Tusk of an Elephant, a thing so strange in an Infans, that no age can parallel: Her Chin was of the same Complexion as her Face, turning up towards her mouth, and streaks being beard, from an unknowne cause, as if there had been a moze than an ordinary correspondence between her Teeth and it.

Her Neck so strangely distorted, that her right shoulder was forced to be a supporter to her head, it being propt up by the help of her Chin, in such sorte, that the right side of her Body stood much looser than the left; like the reeling of a Ship that sails with a side wind. Again, her left side was quite turned the contrary way, as if her Body had been screw'd together piece after pieces, and not rightly placed: her left shoulder hanging just perpendicular to her Fundament.

Her Leggs very crooked and misshapen: The Toes of her feet looking towards her left side; so that it was very hard for any person (could she have stood up) to guess which road she intended to bear her course; because she never could look that way she resolued to go.

After she had remained under the care of her Nurse, for the space of a Moon, or there abouts, her Mother being unable to provide for her, she was put out to Nurse at the charge of the Parish, to a poor Woman hard by in the Town, where she continued for the space of half a year or there abouts, the house not being any waies disturbed at all, till at last her Nurse having been abroad among some of the chiefe of the Parishioners, either to procure something of their Charity for her substance, and the maintainance of her Family, or else to fetch her money from the Overseers of the Poor, for Nursing the Child; and returning home to her House, she found her dozes unbard and wide open, whereat she much amazed and affrighted, ran to her next Neighbour, and acquainted her that she was quite undone, for her house was broken open and robbed; the man immediately riseth from his Dinner, carrying his bread and Cheese in his hand, accompanied with his wife and another ladring man; approaching the door, endeavoured to enter, but before they could all get quite in, there was immediately a very strange noise heard in the next Room to them as if it had been a consort of Cats, which so affrighted them, that they all ran towards

towards the doo<sup>r</sup> endeavouring to get out again but it was in vain ; for at their approach there were great long yocks about their Necks, in the form of a Cross, or turned stile ; so that they could not possibly return ; and while they were thus straining and crying out for help ; their yocks at last fell off, and a coule-staff, or Brewers-sting laid upon the mens shoulders ; upon which an old Woman presented her self Naked, some times hanging by the Heels, some times by the Toes, anon by the Middle ; with divers other postures, they continuing so the space of half an hour, in such sort, that the poor men were never more tired in clearing of Leggs, nor less pleased at any thing than in being constrained to humour this peice of hellish activity.

After they had got a discharge from this their new employment, the house being now quiet, and they a little recovered their sences and missing the women, they ran further into the house, where at last they found them lying flat upon their bellies, their clothes being turned backwards over their heads, two great black Cats were playing Hocus Pocus upon their postures, which the men in vain attempted to drive away, unill at last their own slavery procured the womens freedom from that employment, though they changed not much for the better, for as they were coming out of that Room, in the next their stood a pair of Parwings, made in the form of a Cross, uppon which women use to put great skeins of Yarn, that so they may wind it off with more ease and less trouble : These being placed in the middle of the Room, the two men and two women were forced to take the four ends thereof in their hand, and so daunce round about the Room one after another, until such time as they were almost tired to death, carrying upon every one of their shoulders an Imp in the likeness of a Monkey or Ape, which hung close upon them ; and when ever they slackned their pace, these Spirits pricked them forward, continuing this recreation for a very considerable time ; and being cloy'd with this kind of diversion, they vanished quite out of sight, leaving these poor wretches as weary, as astonished ; who notwithstanding no sooner perceived themselves at liberty but they presently quitted the house, and soon after addressed themselves to several of the Neighbourhood, acquainting them with what had happened, which caused great amazement amongst them, and immediately the whose Town was in an uproar ; and the Minister and several of the most eminent Inhabitants, consulted together what the occasion thereof should be, and what to do in the busness, some of them

them threatening the informers; others thinking they were distrusted: But at last they resolved to go to the House; yet when they came near, there arose a great dispute amongst them who should first enter, which at last was agreed upon, and the Parson (with his congregation attending him in the rear;) gave them the first onset, and entering the door quivering and shaking, they heard the Nurse-Child cry in a most hideous and doleful manner; whereupon there was suddenly a noise like the treading of people upon stones, though the house in any place had no other then an earthen floor; at which the Child ceased, and a very sweet musical harmony of several notes was heard, and all presently vanished again: after which the Minister and Inhabitants entring, and searching the House, and at length missing the Child one of them looking up the Chimney, saw the Cradle wonderfully hanging about three yards high without any support, which being as strangely conveyed down again: they encouraged the Nurse, and leaving her in the House (though affrighted) they departed for the present.

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### C H A P. V.

How Mother Shipton whilst but very young at Nurse, was daily Visited by Spirits, in divers Shapes and Forms; and what prancks they play'd during her abode there.

Mother Shipton now grew apace, and as her stature encreased, so did her deformity: Her supposed Father (the foul fiend) omitted not a day wherein he visited not the House where she was, sometimes visibly in the form of a Cat, Dog, Bat, or Hog; at other times, invisibly by noises, so terrible, as it so affrighted the Nurse, that she oftentimes resolved to deliver up her charge, and forsake her habitation; sometimes she came in a pleasant humour, either singing or playing on an Instrument, which was usually a Scotch Bag-pipe.

Her Nurse sometimes was in great perplexity, not knowing what was become of her, for an whole day together; but when she was in her greatest search after her, she saw her oftentimes drop through the Roof of the House: Going out, upon her return, she many times found her

Child stretcht out to a prodigious length, taller than the tallest living; and at other times as much decreaseast or shortned. The poor womans work for the Major part, was only to rectifie what these Spirits disordered about her House; the Chairs and Stools would frequently march up stairs and down, and they usually plaid below at Bowls with the Trenchers and dishes: Going to dinner, the meat was remoed before she could touch a bit of it, which things, as they much troubled the Nurse, so they gave much satisfaction to Mother Shipton; as it appeared by her monstrous smiles: Now and then to pacifie her Nurse, when she saw her much vext hereat, she would say, be contented, there is nothing here will harm you.

To be shurt, the Nurse was so continually terrified by these apparitions, that she reslded to complain to the parish; and having made known the truth of what had past, in commiseration to the woman almost distractred, they remoed Mother Shipton to another place, where she was put to School, being of an age now fitting for it.

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## C H A P. VI.

How Mother Shipton was put to School, learning more in a day, than other Children in a Moneth: How she was jeered by her School-fellows, for having such a monstrous long Nose: and what pranks she plaid upon them, by way of Revenge; growing now very famous.

**M**other Shipton was now grown a lusty Girl; and as she was left to the care of the Parish, so the Parish took care that she should have the common sort of Learning; that is to say, Reading and Writing bestowed upon her. Comming to School, her Missis began to instruct her, as other Children, beginning with the Cris-cross-roo as they call'd it, showing and naming only three or four Letters at first, but to the amazement and astonishment of her Missis; she exactly pronounced every Letter in the Alphabet without teaching. Hereupon her Missis, shewed her a Primer, which she read as well at first sight, as any in the School, and so proceeded in any Book was shewn her.

AS

As this produced wonder in her School-mistress, so hatred and envy in her Comrades ; some flouted her for her monstrous long nose, others endeavoured to beat her, and all strove to mischiefe her ; but she valued them not, revenging her self upon every one of them, that intended her harm. Some were pinch't, and yet no hand seen that did it ; others struck speechless when they were about to say their Lessons, not being able to utter a word ; and none escaped from being served one scurvy trick, or other. This so enraged the Parents of these Children, looking on Mother Shipton the sole cause hereof, that she was discharged the School, and so left to the wide World.

She hath been often seen when alone, to laugh heartily ; at other times to talk by her self, uttering very strange riddles, which occasioned some of the more sober sort to converse with her, receiving such strange things from her, as required a long study to find out the meaning.

Never a day passed, wherein she related not something very remarkable, and required the most serious consideration. And now it was that people flockt to her far and near, (her fame was so great) to be resolued of their Doubts, all returning wonderfully satisfied in the Resolution of their questions.

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## C H A P. VII.

How several persons came to Mother Shipton, for her Predictions, and how a Rich Heire being deceived by her Maid, fell sick of Grief, and dyed.

**A**nd now Mother Shipton beginning to grow famous in the World, for her notable Judgment in things to come : There resorted to her House a number of people, of all sorts, both old and young, rich and poor ; Especially, of the Female Service. Young Maids and Wenchess, who have alwaies a great itching desire to know when they shall be Married ; as also, what manner of Husbands they shall have ; to which she gave such satisfactory answers, both for the Persons, and time ; that no sooner could a young Maid get into the Teens,

but

but She would presently Trost to Mother Shiptons, to be resolved of her doubt. Now though she were not Mercenary her self, but refused great Gifts, when proffered unto her ; yet did she keep a young Wench, who rather then fail, if they forgot to open their purse to her. She would remember to open her mouth to them, and tell them, that her Dame Shipton, noz she, could not be maintained with thanks, but that the belly required meat to feed it : and that it was money which made the Mare to go. One day there came a certain young Heir thither, whose Father was sick, to be resolved by her, whether he should live or die ; but Mother Shipton could by no means be wrought upon to tell him any thing ; whereupon he proffered the Maid great store of Money, if she could by any means perswade her Dame, to fulfil his request ; the Wench greedy of Money, promised him fair ; and that if he would come the next Morning, he should be certain to be resolved ; in the mean time, she importuned her Dame with the most cunning Rhetorick that she could invent ; but she was deaf to all entreaties, and would by no means be induced thereto, whereupon the Wench resolved with her self, rather than to lose the money, to give him an answer of her own intention ; which the next morning she performed in these words.

The Grave prepared hath a Room,  
Prepare for Death, thy hour is Come.

The young Gentleman having received this answer, went home joyfully, hoping presently to reap the Golden Crop which his Father had sown, and to be in an instant, possessed of all his vast estate, but the sequel proved quite contrary ; for by that time he came home, great hopes of amendment appeared in his Father, who each day grew better and better, so that in a short time he became perfectly well. This unexpected recovery of the old man, struck such a dump in our young Heir, that he presently took his Bed, fell extream sick, and in a short time grew extraordinary ill, that all the symptoms of a dying man appeared in him : The old man, who had carked and cared all his life time for his Son, ( having no moze Children but he ) was very desirous of his life, and to know whether he should recover ; whereupon he sent to Mother Shipton about the same ; who knowing by her Art, what her Maid had done, sufficiently did chide her for the same : threatening upon such another offence, to turn her out of her service. In the mean time, the Messenger was come to her House, who having deliver'd his errant, was turned back with this answer.

For

For others Deaths who do gape out,  
Their own unlook't for, comes about :  
Earth he did seek, e're long shall have,  
Of Earth his fill, within his Grave.

The old man having received this answer, was much troubled, as thinking his own Death predicted thereby, not imagining in the least, what his Son had done ; but he was soon quit of that suspicion, for within two daies the young man dyed ; when by a Servant (who knew the passages) he was informed the truth of the whole matter.

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C H A P. VIII.

Mother Shiptons Prophecies concerning King Henry the Eighth's journey into France ; of Cardinal Wolsey, and other things.

**A**bout this time, some differences arising betwixt King Henry the Eighth, and the French King ; great preparations of war were made in England, the Drums beating in every County, to summon Voluntary Valour to express it self, indeſence of their King and Country, Many Heroick Spirits, who made Honour their Aim, not dreading any dangers for the attaining thereof, now lifted themselves Bellona's followers : so many appearing under Mars his Banner, that he who was furnished with Limbs and an Estate, to decline the Service, was adjudged a Coward. There was then living in the North, a young Heir, who was newly come to his Estate, one whose Tongue was all fire, and his heart all ire, who would kill Thousands with words, but durst not adventure to do any thing in deeds. This Gallant being by some of his Equals, pricked on to make his appearance in the fields of Mars, and not to lie sleeping at home, when Fame Summoned him forth to Action, he knew not what to do in this case ; loath was he to lose his loved Life, and yet the aspersion of a Coward, though to a Coward himself, is of all things most odious ? He therefore promised them fair ; that none should be more willing then he, to

spend

to spend his blood in the quarrel of that Country, from whence he received his dearest life ; but yet resolbed with himself, not to set one step forward in that path of danger, till he had first consulted with Mother Shipton, concerning what succels he shoulde have in his journey ; if bad, he was resolbed by a feigned sickness to bade, thinking it no policy for a man to part away with that life in an instant, which with great cost and care, had been many years in bringing up.

Whereupon he hast to our Northern Prophetess, acquaints her with his Condition, and very earnestly desires of her ( as she to whom nothing was unhid ) that she would unfold to him whether good, or bad fortune shoulde be his attendant, in this his Expedition. Mother Shipton though she perceived his sheepless courage to be every way unanswerable to that of a Souldier, yet fozenknowing what would come to pass, returned him this answer ; which without more ad, fully satisfied him to proceed, and perform what he had promised ; the answer was this.

When the English Lyon shall set his paw on the Gallique shore, then shall the Lillies begin to drop for fear : There shall be much weeping and wailing amongst the Ladies of that Country ; because the Princely Eagle shall joyn with the Lyon, to tread down all that shall oppose them : and though many Sagittaries shall appear in defence of the Lillies, yet shall they not prevale ; because the dull Animal of the North shall put them to Confusion ; and though it be against his will, yet shall cause great shame unto them. Now shall the Mitted Peacock first begin to plume, whose Train shall make a great show in the World, for a time ; but shall afterwards vanish away, and his great Honour come to nothing ; which shall take its end at Kingston.

### The Explanation of the Prophecy.

By the English Lyon was meant the King of England ; and by setting his Paw on the Gallique shore, the Landing of his Army in France, which not long after he did ; by the Lillies beginning to drop for fear, was signified the great trouble and perplexity of the French, the Lillies being the Arms of France ; the weeping and wailing amongst the Ladies of the Country, denotes the miseries and destructions incident to War, the Sword, Famine, Destruction and Desolation being inseparable Companions ; by the Princely Eagle joyning with

with the Lyon, and treading down all that should oppose them, is meant Maximilian the German Emperor ( whose Arms were the Eagle ) who not only joyned in Amity with King Henry, but also took wages of him, and serbed him in his Wars as an hired Souldier; by the Sagittaries that appeared in defence of the Lillies, was meant the French Cabalry, the chief strength of France, consisting of Horse-men, who appearing like Sagittaries, that is to say, half Men, and half Horses, gave Mother Shipton to use that expression; whereas it is said, yet they should not prevail, it fell out so accordingly; for notwithstanding all the oppositions of the French Armies, King Henry proceeded on vigorously, conquering and taking several Towns of importance, as Tourney, Boulloign, &c. But to come to that which most nearly concerns the matter, viz. the success of our young Heir, in this expedition, which was hinted forth unto him in these words, because the dull Animal of the North shall put them to Confusion; and though it be against his will, yet shall cause great shame unto them; by the dull Animal of the North, was meant this fresh water Souldier, who according to the Prophecy, put the Frenchmen to confusion, and great shame; for passing the Seas with King Henry, being Mounted on a stately Horse, as both Armies confronted each other, he being in the Head of the Battel, just before the Charge, some body striking his Horse, the Jade carried him perforce upon the Enemy, with such violence, as put their front into some disorder, which being perceived by our men, they presently so seconded him, that in fine, the French very fairely ran away, leaving the English a glorious victory, purchased with a little cost.

By this means was Mother Shiptons Prediction fulfilled to the disgrace of the French, and great praise of the young Gallant; for the rest of the Prophecy, the Interpretation thereof runs thus.

By the Mitred Peacock was intended Cardinal Wolsey, signified by that Wird, because of his great pride, who being but a poor Butlers son of Ipswich in Suffolk, grew to such height, that he thought himself Superior to the chief Nobles of the Land, living in such splendor as not to be parallel'd, according to the Prophecy: Whose Train shall make a great show in the World, and whereas it is said, the Peacock shall then begin to Plume, so it was, that when King Henry had taken the City of Tourney, in France he made Wolsey Bishop thereof, who soon after rose to the highest degree of Honour a Subject could be capable of, which afterwards ( as the Prophecy saies ) vanished

away, and his great Honour come to nothing: And lastly, whereas it is said, he should have his end at Kingstone; the Cardinal being told of this Prophecy, would never pass through the Town of Kingstone, though lying directly in the Road, from his own House to the Court, but afterwards being arrested of High Treason, by the Earl of Northumberland and Sir Anthony Kingston the Lieutenant of the Tower sent unto him, his very name (remembering this Prophecy) struck such a terror to his heart, that he soon after expired.

## C H A P. IX.

Her Prophecy to the Abbot of ~~Beverly~~, concerning the downfall of Abbeys, ~~Monasteries~~, ~~Priories~~, &c. with other things.

**M**other Shiptons Predictions coming thus effectually to pass, spread her Fame far wider than it was; insomuch, that many who before looked upon her as a crackt-brain'd Woman, now began to admire her, and to esteem of her words as Oracles. And as the nature of English people is, rather to desire to know what is to come, than to seek to rectifie ought what is done amiss; so the greatest part of her visitants, came only to be resolved, of what she knew, would come to pass, of which number was the Abbot of ~~Beverly~~, who fearing the downfall of Religious Houses, and a change of the Religion then professed, putting on the counterfeit Cloaths of a Lay-person, he came to Mother Shiptons, and knocking at the door, she being within, called to him, and said, come in Sir. Abbot, for you are not so much disguised, but the Fox may be seen through the Sheeps skin; it is not those Cloaths makes you a Lay-person, no more than a Long-Gown, makes a man a Lawyer; come, take a stool and sit down, for you shall not go away unsatisfied of what you desire, and thereupon she began to utter forth her Prophecys in this sort.

When the Cow doth ride the Bull,  
Then Priest beware thy Scul.  
And when the lower Shrubs do fall,  
The great Trees quickly follow shall.

The

The Miter'd Peacock's lofty Pride.

Shall to his Master be a Guide.

And one great Court to pass shall bring,  
What was neer done by any King.

The Poor shall Grieve, to see that Day,  
And who did Feast, must Fast and Pray.

Fate so Decreed their Overthrow,  
Riches brought Pride, and Pride brought Woe.

These Prophesies were thus Explained; by the Cow was meant King Henry, who gave the same, by reason of the Earldom of Richmond, which was his Inheritance: and the Bull betokeneth Mrs. Anne Bulloign, whome the King took to wife, in the room of Queen Catharine, her Father gave the Black Bulls head in his Cognizance, and was his Beast; and when the King had married Queen Anne, then was fulfilled the second line of the Prophecy, viz. Then Priest beware thy Scul; for what a number of Priests Religious and Secular, lost their heads for offending of those Laws made to bring this matter to pass.

And when the Lower Shrubs do fall,  
The great Trees quickly follow shall.

The Miter'd Peacock's lofty pride.  
Shall to his Master be a Guide.

Cardinal Wolsey (who is here intended by the Miter'd Peacock) in the height of his pride, and vastness of his undertakings, intending to erect two fair Colledges, one at Ipswich where he was born, the other at Oxford where he was bred; and finding himself unable to endow them at his own Charges; he obtained License of Pope Clement the Sebenth, Anno 1525, to suppress forty small Monasteries in England, and to lay their old Lands to his new Foundations, which was done accordingly; and the poor People that lived in them, turned out of doors, many of the Clergy were very much against this action of Wolscys, especially, John Fisher Bishop of Rochester, alledging for the same an Apologue out of *Æsop*, that the Iron Head of the Axe, craved a handle of the Wood of Oaks, only to cut off the seere boughs of the Tree; but when it was a compleat instrumental Axe,

## The Life and Death of Mother Shipton.

it felled all the Wood: applying it, That the suppressing of those smaller Houses, would in fine, prove Destructive to all the rest; which came to pass accordingly; for King Henry seeing the Cardinals power to extend so far; as to suppress these lower Shrubs, he thought his Prerogative might stretch so far, as to fell down the Great Trees; and soon after dissolved the Priory of Christ's Church nigh Aldgate in London, now known by the Name of Dukes-place, and which was the richest in Lands, and Ornaments of all the Priories in London, or Middlesex; and which was a fore-runner of the Dissolution of all the rest; and which not long after came to pass.

And one great Court to pass shall bring,  
What was ne're done by any King.

By the Great Court, is meant the Parliament, the Supreme Court of England; who in the Twenty-seventh of King Henry's Reign, Anno 1539. To support the Kings States, and supply his wants, conferred on the Crown, all Religious Houses, which were not able clearly to expend above two hundred pounds a year; the great ones not long after following the same fortune of the smaller, which was ne're done (though attempted) by any King before.

The Poor shall Grieve to see that day,

The Abbots and Priors being most bountiful House-keepers, relieving all comers and goers, got themselves much reputation for their Hospitality.

And who did Feast, must Fast and Pray.

By the Dissolution of these Houses, many thousands were driven to seek their fortunes in the wide World, and become utterly exposed to want, when Monkish profession was without possession; many a young Nun probed an old Beggar, and were forced to fast for want of Victuals, who formerly had it provided for them, to their hands.

Fate so Decreed their overthrow,  
Riches brought Pride, and Pride brought woe.

The

The great Riches and Pride of the Monks and Eryers was (no doubt) the main cause of their overthrow; for whatsoever was the pretence, questionless profit was the hope which pulled these Religious Houses down.

All these things coming to pass before such time as this Abbot died, caused him to have a great esteem of Mother Shipton, and to value her Prophecy more than ordinary conjectures; though at the first, he could not tell what to make of her Ambiguous Lines, which like the Oracles, formerly delibeted at Delphos: rather brought one into a Labyrinth of confused conjectures, then satisfied the expectation, until by the Clue of Time, the Riddles were manifest, and that which at first seemed so hard, now appeared to the understanding, as easie: However, he at present kindly thanked Mother Shipton, and liberally rewarded her Maid (who else would have put him in mind of his neglect) much admiring that she should be so clear-sighted, as to see through his counterfeit Dress; resolving afterwards to be more informed by her, concerning future events; he at that time took his solemn leave of her, and returned home.

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C H A P. X.

Her Prophecy concerning King Edward the Sixth: The Rebellion of the Commons: The Death of the Duke of Somerset, with other things.

Not long had the Abbot been at home, but his Abby was visited by some Instruments employed by the Lord Cromwel for that purpose. He who knew what was intended by this Complement, thought it not safe to strive against the Stream, and therefore quietly surrendered his Monastery, into the Kings hands. And now perceiving Mother Shiptons Prophecy plainly fulfilled, in the downfall of those Houses, which were judged Impregnable, against all the assaults of Malice and time; Considering the strange Revolutions of so short a space: he was very desirous to be more fully informed of the future. In this Resolution he repairs again to Mother Shipton, whom he now accosts more familiarly, than he did before, making himself plainly known unto her; telling her that as what she had formerly spoken, he had found to be true in the event; so his Judgment persuaded him, she

has

was not ignorant of those things which were for the future to ensue; and therefore desired her, she would not be nice in imparting of this her fore-knoledg unto him; for which so great favour, though it were more than his deserts could command, yet should there never in him be wanting a grateful tongue to acknowledge, and a grateful heart to be thankful unto her, for so great a favour.

Mr. Abbot ( said she ) leabe off Complementing, as more fit for Courtiers, and Lobers, and not agreeable to an old Woman, who will neither flatter, nor be flattered by any: and for what you came about, I shall not be squeamish to fulfil your request, let me therefore desire you, to lend me your attention, and thereupon ( after some short pause ) she thus began.

A Prince that never shall be Born,  
Shall make the Shaved Heads forlorn.  
Then shall Commons rise in Armes,  
And Womens Malice cause much harmes.  
O deadly Pride! O hateful Strife!  
Brothers to seek each others Life.  
Ambition shall so deadly spread,  
The Griffin fierce shall lose his Head.  
Soon after shall the Lyon die,  
And mildness usher Cruelty.

These ten lines being prophecies of the Actions in King Edwards Reign; for the Readers benefit; ( before we proceed any further in her Predictions,) we will unfold the meaning of them by themselves, that we may not too much burthen their memory; but by variety add a pleasure to the reading of them.

A Prince that never shall be born.  
Shall make the Shaved Heads forlorn.

By the Prince that never shall be born is meant King Edward the Sixth, of whom all reports do constantly run, that he was not by Natural Passage delivered into the World, but that his Mothers Body was opened for his Birth, that he died of the Incision the fourth day following; and by the Shaved Heads, is understood the Monks, Fryers,

er. who are said to be become forlorn : the Reformation beginning, with the beginning of King Edwards Reign : and the Popes Priests put down, as his Supremacy was before,

Then shall commons rise in Armes.

King Edward having set out certain Injunctions, for the Reformation of Religion, as the Commissioners passed to divers places for the establishing of them, many scorns were cast upon them, and the farther they went from London, as the people were moze uncivil, so did they more rise into insolvency and contempt ; for in Cornwal, the Commons flocked together, having killed one of the commissioners ; and albeit Justice was done upon the offenders, the principal of them being Executed in several places, yet could not their boldness be beaten down with their severity, but that the mischief spread farther, in Wiltshire, and Somerset-shire, where the people supposeing that a Common-wealth could not stand without Commons beat down Inclosures, and laid Parks, and Fields Champion. The like Commotions followed in Sussex, Hamp-shire, Kent, Gloucester-shire, Warwick-shire, Essex, Hartford-shire, Leicester-shire, Worcester-shire, and Rutland-shire. but the greatest of all, was in Devon-shire and Norfolk : the one Headed by Henry Arundel Esquire, Gouvernour of the Mount in Cornwal, the other by Robert Ket a Tanner of Windham in Norfolk : Those of Devon-shire, were accounted above ten thousand, who with a close and smart Siege, surrounded the City of Exeter, which they brought to extremity misery, having a paient for abroad, and Famine sorely raving within ; insomuch, as they were fain to bake Bran and Meal moulded up in Clothes, for otherwise it would not stick together ; at last the Rebels were routed from thence by the Lord Privy Seal, with the loss of a Thousand of their Number, and soon after totally routed, at a place called Clist-heath. These of Norfolk, were judged to be moze dangerous ; both because their strength was great, being estimated to be above Twenty Thousand ; as also the City of Norwich was a friend unto them, or at least wished them no harm : This rude rout encamped on Monshold-hill, a place Impregnable in some sort, being neer to Norwich ; against whom was sent the Marques of Northampton, and afterwards the Earl of Warwick, who made many Gallies upon the Rebels with various success ;

success; had the Rebels kept in this Fort, they might have tired out the Earl, his Horse being useless against them; but they relying on an old prophecy, came down into Dasson Dale and quitted the Fort; the words of the prophecy were these.

The Country Knuffs, Hob, Dic, and Vic,  
With Clubs, and Clouted Shone,  
Shall fill up Dasson-Dale with Blood,  
Of slaughtered Bodies soon.

Which they Interpreted to be of their Enemies Bodies, though it proved of their own; for the Earl setting upon them, after a stout resistance, they were overcome, two thousand slain upon the place; ~~Ret~~ with his Brother and nine others Executed; the rest taken unto mercy.

And Womens malice cause much Harms.

Lamentable was the effects occasioned by the malice of two Women in this Kings Reign, which that you may the better understand, we shall declare the Original grounds thereof. The King had two Winkles, Brothers to Queen Jane his deceased Mother, Edward Duke of Somerset, Lord Protector, &c. and Thomas Lord Seymor Baron of Sudly, High Admiral of England: The Lord Sudly, had taken to Wife Katherine Parr, Queen Dowager, last Wife to King Henry the Eighth. The Duke had Married the Lady Ann Stanhope, a Woman for many Imperfections intollerable; This Woman did bare such invincible hate, first against the Queen Dowager for light causes, and Womens quarrels; especially, for that she had Precedency of place before her; that albeit, the Queen Dowager dyed by Child-birth, yet would not her malice either die, or decrease, but hated the Lord Sudly, for her sake; and left buzzing fears and jealousies in her Husbands Pace, (who was of an easie belief) that within few days the Lord Sudley was arrested and sent to the Tower, and in very short time after Condemned by Act of Parliament; and within few days after his Condemnation, a Warrant was sent, under the hand of his Brother the Duke, whereby his Head was delivered to the Axe; which verified what was before predicted:

O deadly Pride ! O hateful Strife !  
Brothers to seek each others Life.

O Wifes ! the most sweetest poysen, the most desred Evil in the world! certainly, as it is true, as Syracides saith, that there is no Malice to the Malice of a Woman: so no Mischief wanteth, where a Malicious Woman beareth sway; a Woman was first giben to Man for a Conforter, but not for a Counseller, much less a Controleer and Director; and therefore, in the first sentence against Man, the cause is express, Because thou obeyest the voice of thy Wife. And doubtless the Protector, by being thus ruled to the Death of his Brother, seemed with his left hand to have cut off his right; for hereby he left himself now unguarded from the Malice of his Enemies, the Earl of Warwick, etc. who being ambitious of ingrossing all power into his own hands, soon brought the confusion of the Duke, as it follows in the Prophecy.

Ambition shall so deadly spread,  
The Griffonfierce shall lose his Head.

For the Earl of Warwick espying opportunity, bewing himself, and knowing, that in troublous times, the obedience of great persons is most easily shaken, drew about eighteen of the Privy Council to knit with him against the Lord Protector: These he did, to wind up his purpose, that they withdrew from the Court, fell to private Consultations, and so ordered the matter, that at length they brought the Protector upon the Scaffold, wherein first he had his Head cut off, figured here by the name of the Griffin.

Soon after shall the Lyon die,  
And Mildness Usher Cruelty.

By the Lyon I mean King Edward, who suribed his Uncle the Duke of Somerset, nor above two years before his death ( as it is generally conjectured ) bringing him into a Consumption, though some have reported him to be poysoned; soon after his death Mass and Poverty was restored again by Queen Mary, for which cause many afterwards perished in the flames, verifying the last verse.

And Mildness Usher Cruelty.

CHAR.  
TULIANA

## C H A P. XI.

Her Prophecys concerning the Death of Lady Jane Grey; the burning of the ~~Spartyrs~~; of ~~wayts~~ Rebellion; the Death of Queen Mary; and of Cardinal Wol.

BY Parents too ambitious Pride,  
The Scaffold shall with Blood be Di'de.  
A Vertuous Lady then shall die,  
For being raised up too High.  
Her death shall cause another's joy,  
Who will the Kingdom much annoy.  
Miters shall rise, Miters come down,  
And streams of Blood shall Minchfield drown.  
England shall joyn in League with Spain,  
Which some to hinder strive in vain.  
The Lyoness from life retires,  
And Pontifical Priest expires.

This Prophecy is peculiarly applied to the Reign of Queen Mary, and may be interpreted after this manner.

By Parents too ambitious Pride,  
The Scaffold shall with Blood be Di'de.

This is meant by the Lady Jane Grey daughter to the Duke of Suffolk, who having married the Lord Gifford Dudley, son to the Duke of Northumberland, the ambition of Northumberland was so great, that he practised much on King Edwards tender years, who who was much weakened with sickness, that excluding his two sisters, the Lady Mary, and Lady Elizabeth, he conveper the Crown to the Lady Jane, by that which we may call the Testament of King Edward, and the Will of the Duke of Northumberland. But the Commons taking part with the Lady Mary, notwithstanding, the Duke went with great forces

against

against her, yet his Soldiers dissenting him, he was forced to tack a-  
bore, and with an unwilling mind proclaim her Queen, whom in  
his heart he hated above all others.

A Vertuous Lady then shall die,  
For being raised up too high.

The Lady Jane Grey, who out of dutifullness to her Parents, assum-  
ing the Title of Queen upon her, for her offence, lost her head: This  
Lady Jane was a woman of most rare and incomparable perfections;  
for besides her excellent beauty, adorned with all variety of vertues, as  
a clear sky with Stars, as a princely Diadem with Jewels; she was  
the mirrour of her time, for her Religion and Education in the knowl-  
ledg of the Liberal Sciences, and skill in Languages, for in The-  
ology, in Philosophy, in all the Liberal Arts, in the Latine and Greek  
Tongues, and in the Vulgar Languages of divers near Nations, she  
far exceeded all of her peer, and every one of her peers.

Her Death shall cause anothers joy,  
Who will the Kingdom much annoy.

The Death of the Lady Jane was supposed to be a rejoicing to  
Queen Mary, and who by restoring Papery, and the persecutions  
that the Professors of the Gospel suffered in her time, is said to bring  
the Kingdom to annoy.

Mites shall rise, Mites come down,  
And streams of Blood shall Smithfield drown.

By the spitters are meant the Bishops, who in the Change of Reli-  
gion found great Change; very few of them keeping their Seats  
wherein they had been seated by King Edward the sixth, the names of  
the Bishops thus put down, were these, Cranmer Arch Bishop of Can-  
terbury, Ridley Bishop of London, Poynt Bishop of Winchester, Hol-  
gate Arch-Bishop of York, Bush Bishop of Bristol, Bird Bishop of Che-  
ster, Hooper Bishop of Worcester and Gloucester, Barlo Bishop of Bath  
and Wells, Scory Bishop of Chichester, Ferrar Bishop of St. Davids,  
Coverdale Bishop of Exeter, Taylor Bishop of Lincoln, and Harley Bi-

shop of Hereford ; in the room of these Bishops thus put down, severall Bishops were raised, as Cardinal Pool made Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, Bonner Bishop of London, Gardiner Bishop of Winchester, Heath Arch-Bishop of York, Holeman Bishop of Bristol, Gotes Bishop of Chester, Brook Bishop of Gloucester, Pates Bishop of Worcester, Bourn Bishop of Bath and Wells; Christopherson Bishop of Chichester, Morgan Bishop of St. Davids, Turberville Bishop of Exeter, White Bishop of Lincoln, and Parfew Bishop of Hereford.

And streams of Blood shall Smithfield drown.

Great was the number of Martyrs burned in Smithfield in this Queens Reigne, under the Bloody hands of Bonner Bishop of London, and Dr. Story Dean of St. Pauls ; the first persecuting by wholesale, the second by retail ; the names of all those who in this place thus testified their Faith by the loss of their Lives, would be too long here to recite : the chief of them were, Mr. John Rogers, Mr. John Bradford, Mr. Robert Glover, &c.

England shall joyn in League with Spain,  
Which some to hinder strive in vain.

Queen Mary intending to match her self with Philip King of Spain, the bruit thereof being spread amongst the people, was by them ill resented, as dreading to be under the yoke of a stranger ; to hinder the same (amongst others) Sir Thomas Wyat, a Kentish Knight, took Armes, with a great party assisting him. The Queen hearing of his Commotion, sent a Herald to him to desse, which he refusing to do, she resolues upon force, sending the Duke of Norfolk with five hundred Londoners against him ; but these Souldiers bearing more affection to Wyats cause than the Queens, forsook their Leader, and their Loyalty together, and joyned themselves to Wyats Faction ; who much elated with this supply, presently resolues for London, promising to himself easie entrance into that City, and hearty entertainment therein ; but contrary to his expectation, coming to Southwark, he found all the Toweers of the Tower, and the tops of the square Hiepples neer the Bridgfoot on the other side, planted with Ordinance against him, so that both Church and State threatned his ruine ; so that seeing no good to be done there.

there, with a swift March ( having the Darkness of the Night for his Cobertura ) he hasteth to Kingston, passeth the River, and comes to Knights-Bridg, before almost any had notice of his Motion,

Here he divides his Army into two parts, Five hundred of them wheels down towards White-Hall, but could not force their passage into it; Himself with the rest of the Army went directly to Charing-Cross, where he met with some opposition, but nothing daunted thereat, he marched directly down the Strand and Fleet-street, and coming to Ludgate promised himself entrance into the City, but finding the Gate close shut, and well fortified against him, with Men and Ammunition, his hopes then began to fail him; retreating to Temple-Bar, he was faced with some Horse, where after a short Fight, he submitted himself Prisoner, being first carried to White-Hall to be examined, from thence to the Tower, and soon after to the Scaffold, where he received the rewards of his Rebellion.

The Lyoness from life retires,  
And Pontifical Priest Expires.

By the Lyoness is meant Queen Mary, who having Reigned five years and some odd months, dyed of a Dropse, though others say of Grief for the absence of her Husband King Philip, and others again, for Calice ( taken not long before ) and that she should say, if after she was dead they ripped her up, they would find Calice written on her heart.

The Pontifical Priest signified Cardinal Pool, who expired within few hours after the death of Queen Mary. This prelate was of princely extraction, his Mother Margaret being Daughter to George Duke of Clarence; when he was young he was brought up together with Queen Mary, and being a zealous Catholick during King Edwards Reign, suffered a voluntary exile for the same; when the mariage with Prince Philip and Queen Mary was made up, he returned into England, was made Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, more moderate than some other of his fellow Bishops, having a favourable inclination towards the Protestants: He surviveth the Queen but few hours, and was buried in his own Cathedral at Canterbury, with this short and modest Epitaph on his Monument, DEPOSITUM CARDINALIS POLI.

## C H A P. XII.

Her Prophecys concerning the Reign of Queen Elizabeth; the change of Religion; the attempts of the Papists, upon the Queen; the Spanish Invasion; the burning of Pauls Steeple; the death of the Queen of Scots; the reducing Ireland; the beheading the Earl of Essex, &c.

**T**He Lyon fierce being dead and gone,  
A Maiden Queen shall Reign anon.  
Those who sighed, then shall sing,  
And the Bells shall Changes Ring.  
The Papal power shall bear no sway,  
Roms crash shall hence be swept away.  
The Locusts sent from the seven Hills,  
The English Rose shall seek to kill.  
The Western Monarchs Wooden Horses,  
Shall be destroyed by the Drakes forces.  
Troy nobant's Triumphant Spire,  
Shall be consum'd with flames of Fire.  
More wonders yet! a Widowed Queen,  
In England shall be headless seen.  
The Harp shall give a better Sound,  
An Earle without a Head be found.  
Soon after shall the English Rose,  
Unto a Male her place dispose.

These lines being a Prophecy of the most remarkable Actions, during the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, are to be interpreted after this manner.

The Lyon fierce being dead and gone,  
A Maiden Queen shall Reign anon,

Queen

Queen Mary is here meant by the fierce Lyon ; so called, not so much for the Cruelty done by Her, as by the Bishops and Priests who were done under her ; for take her in her self, secluded from bloody Counsellors, and she was a most Merciful, Pious, Just Princess ; but in respect of the Blood that was shed, and the persecutions then suffered, she is here termed a fierce Lyon : After whom is said, A Maiden Queen to Reign Anon, meant by Queen Elizabeth, who was the Spurour of her Sex and Age, who for above forty years, to the admiration of every one self, managed the affaers of this Kingdom ; having when she began, few Friends that durst help, and leaving no Foe when she died that could hurt her ; acting her part so well whilst here she reigned ; that History can scarcely afford us one Prince to be matched to her Fame, in all considerable particulars.

Those who sighed then shall sing,  
And the Bells shall changes Ring.

Many who sat and sighed in the dates of Queen Mary, by reason of the hot persecution, being forced to forsake their Houses, because they would not forsake their Religion ; now that Queen Elizabeth began to reign, their mourning was turned into joy, their sighing into singing ; returning from their exile, with psalmes of thanksgiving in their mouths : where their Bells rang such Changes in Religion, that the Mass was put down, and the Common prayer set up : properly banished, and reformation established ; the Ministers of the Gospel advanced, and the schabeling Priests, Monks and Friars, depented.

The Papal Power shall bear no sway ;  
Noones trash shall hence be swept away.

Soon after the Queens coming to the Crown, a Parliament began at Westminster, wherein the Laws of King Henry, the eighth against the See of Rome were renewed, and those of King Edward the fifth, in favour of the protestants revived, and the Laws by Queen Mary made against them repealed : Uniformity of Prayer, and Administration of Sacraments was enacted, with a Restitution of all Fruits and Lenths to the Crown ; and the Queen acknowledged to be the only and Supreme Governour of her Kingdomes : The people in each place

heat

beating down Superstitious Pictures and Images, which blind and misguided zeal had setup.

The Locusts sent from the seven Hill,  
The English Rose shall seek to kill.

By the Locusts are meant the Priests, Friars and Jesuits, who spread all the World over in greater numbers than the Locust did in the Land of Egypt; and by the seven Hills is meant Rome, which is built upon seven Hills; and by the English Rose is signified Queen Elizabeth, whom the Priest and Jesuits by their Instruments did often attempt to kill; so that if we seriously consider her Reign, we shall scarcely find any Prince, whose life was so often attempted as hers, of which to give you some examples would not be impertinent to our purpose, and first in her Sisters Reign; Stephen Gardiner Bishop of Winchester, and other Romanists, offended with her Religion, so wrought with Queen Mary, suggesting that she was consenting to Wyats insurrection, that she was sent prisoner to the Tower, and (as it is said) a warrant intended to be sealed for her execution, had not King Philip interceded. After she came to the Crown she was as incident to trou- bles as the Month April is to showers, Spain, France and Scotland combining against her, Pope Pius Quintus by his Bull deposes her, in prosecution whereof the Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland rise up in Rebellion, being to have been assisted by the Duke D'Alva out of the Low-Countries, but out of these troubles she was delivered by their Confusion. After these Leonard Dakers, second Son to William Lord Dakers of Gellesland, endeavoured to bring her into trouble, being intrusted by her with competent forces, which he intend- ing to have employed to her detriment, failed in his hopes and Power; and brought both shame and ruine to himself. Next did Thomas and Edward Stanley younger Sons to the Earl of Derby, with several others, plot against her; all which ended in their Ruine and her safety. These failing, Captain Sculley promised to perform wonders against her, but his mountaines probed not so much as mole-hills, he being slain in Barberry, his design failed. But to speak of personal attempts against her, one Somerville drew his sword in the Court to have slain her, Doctor Parry a Spaniolized Italian intended to have Pistoled her as he walked in her privy Garden: Savage, Windsor, Salisbury,

Salisbury, Tilney, and others, conspired to kill her, the which they waited several times to effect: one William Stafford, by the instigation of the French Ambassador, undertook to kill her: Doctor Laper, one of her sworn Physicians, for a sum of money, engaged to poison her: and to conclude all, one Edward Squire, formerly belonging to her Stable, with a mortiferous confection, poysned the Pommel of her Saddle, when she was riding out; from all which notwithstanding, though she were maliciously poysned, she was miraculously preserved, and died in peace; masure all the malice of her enemies.

The Western Monarchs Wooden Horses,  
Shall be destroy'd by the Drakes Forces.

By the Western Monarchs Wooden Horses, is meant the King of Spains, great Armado, in the year 1588, by them termed Invincible, though the success of it answered not the name, being by Dr. Francis Drake and others, brade Sons of Neptune, and Soldiers of Mars, met withal, fought with, and really vanquish'd, most of them sunk, and the rest destitute and scatter'd, being chased by our Ships past the 57 degree of Northern Latitude, and there left to be pursued by hunger and cold, a victory so remarkable, that time, nor age, will ever weare the remembrance thereof away.

Troy nobant's Triumphant spire,  
Shall be consum'd with Flames of Fire.

By Troy nobant is meant London, which in ancient writings is called Troy nobant; and the Triumphant Spire, signifies Pauls-steeple, which in the year 1561 the fourth of June, strangly fell on fire, burning for the space of five full hours, in which time it melted all the Lead off the Church, only the Stone Arches escaping the fury thereof; sundry causes were attributed by sundry persons of this fire; some that it was casually blasted with Lightning; others that it was mischievously done by Art Magick; and others which was most likely done by the negligence of a Plummer carelessly leaving his coals therein. The Queen was much grieved for this mischance, but by her bounty, the Cities liberality, and a Contribution from the Clergy, it was afterwards repaired. only the blunt Tower had not the top thereof sharpened into a spire as before.

More wonders yet ! a Widowed Queen,  
In England shall be headless seen.

The widowed Queen signifies the Queen of Scots, the Mother of King James, who was beheaded at Fotheringhay-Castle some say by the privy, others to the great discontent of Queen Elizabeth : A Lady of a sharp wit, undaunted spirit, comely person, beautiful face, majestic presence, a fluent Orator, and an excellent Poet, as may appear by several things now extant ; amongst others of her Verses, this was one, which she wrote with a pointed Diamond, in a window, during her Imprisonment in Fotheringhay-Castle.

From the top of all my trust,  
Mishap hath laid me in the Dust.

She was beheaded the---- day of ---- Anno 1587, and was first buried in the Quire of Peterborough, afterwards by her Son King James, solemnly removed from thence to Westminster, where in the South side of the Chappel of King Henry the seventh, he erected a stately monument to her Memory.

The Harp shall give a better Sound.

The Harp signifies Ireland, as being the Armes of that Country, which Queen Elizabeth by reducing to a better obedience, made it give a better Sound, that is, made it more civilized, and profitable to the Exchequer then ever before.

An Earl without a Head be found.

This was spoken of the Earl of Essex, one who was the favourite of the Queen, and darling of the people ; ( two things which seldom come together, and yet could not both of them protect him from the Scaffold, but that thereon he lost his Head.)

Soon

Soon after shall the English Rose,  
Unto a Male her place Dispose.

By the English Rose is meant Queen Elizabeth, as we said before; by whose Death, the Right and Title to the Crown, came to James the sixth, King of Scotland, as lineally descended from Margaret the Eldest Daughter to King Henry the seventh; the issue Male failing, by the death of Queen Elizabeth: and here is to be remembred, the Policy of King Henry the seventh, who having two Daughters, Married the eldest of them to the King of Scotland; and the Youngest to the King of France, that if his issue Male should happen'd to fail (as it afterwards did) then Scotland might wait upon England as the greater Kingdom, and not England upon France as the lesser: Besides there was an old Prophecy, which intimated King James his coming to the English Crown; for when King Edward the first baraced Scotland amongst other things he brought from thence their Royal Chair, (still preserued at the Abby in Westminster) upon which Chair these verses were writ.

If Fates go right, where ere this Chair is Pight,  
The Regal Race of Scots shall rule that Place.

which by the Coronation of King James there performed, made good the words of the Prophecy.

F I V E H A P.

## C H A P. XIII.

The Prophesies of the Reign of King James, his uniting England and Scotland, his Peaceable Reign, a learned time, the Powder Treason, the Marriage with the Prince Elector, and Lady Elizabeth; the Death of Prince Henry.

**T**He Northern Lyon over Tweed,  
 The Maiden Queen shall then succeed,  
 And joyn in one, two mighty States,  
 Janus then shall shut his Gates.  
 Mars shall yeild to Mercurie,  
 All things tend to Prosperity.  
 Hells power by a fatal blow,  
 Shall seek the Land to overthrow:  
 Which by mistake shall be reverst,  
 And heads from shoulders be disperst.  
 The British Olive next shall twine  
 In mariage with the German Vine.  
 The Ninth to Death his power shall yeild,  
 Death Conquers all, he winns the Feild.

Next follows the remarkable actions of King James's Reign, predicted in the foregoing lines, which may be thus explained.

The Northern Lyon over Tweed,  
 The Maiden Queen shall then succeed,  
 And joyn in one, two mighty States.

By the Northern Lyon, is meant King James; and by the Maiden Queen, Queen Elizabeth, whom King James, being King of Scotland succeeded in the English Crown, joined thereby the two Nations of England and Scotland, which had been often attempted before, not only by Conquest, but by Marriage; once by Conquest, by King Edward the first, who subdu'd their Armies, took their streng places, and made their Nobles yield him obeisance; yet what they

they thus lost by him, they recovered of his Son King Edward the second; the other of Marriage, was by King Henry the Eighth, who endeavoured to have matched his Son, Prince Edward, with the Heiress of Scotland, and had proceeded very far therein, when Death cut him off; and though afterwards attempted by the Duke of Somerset, Lord Protector, and the Scots beaten at Musselborough-field, yet all would not prevail; God having decreed their union to be afterwards, in a more peaceable manner.

Janus then shall shut his Gates.

Janus was one of the gods belonging to the ancient Romans; whose Temple was never shut, but in the days of Peace, which happened not above twice, in the space of two thousand years: King James his Reign being a very peaceable time, when Swords rusted in their Sheaths for want of using them; Mother Shipton in her Propheſie alludes thereto.

Mars shall yield to Mercury,  
All things tend to prosperity.

War shall give place to Peace, Fighting to pleading, the Sword to the Gown, the Pike to the Pen, Barbarism to Learning, &c. this Peace shall cause Plenty, Plenty work prosperity, &c.

Hells power by a fatal Blow,  
Shall seek the Land to overthrow.  
Which by mistake shall be reverſt,  
And heads from Shoulders be dispers'd.

These Lines have reference to the horrid Powder Plot, which was to have been acted by some desperate Papists, to have blown up the Parliament House with Gun-powder, and therein our Religion, Laws, King, Prince, Peers, Bishops, Judges, Knights and Burgesses, all designed to Desolation: The chief actors herein were, Robert Catesby, Thomas Percy, Sir Everard Digby, Francis Thresham, Robert Winstor, Thomas Winstor, John Wright, Chris. Wright, Ambrose Bookwood, Robert Key, John Graunt, Guido Faux, and Bates, Catesbies man, Gentle-

Gentlemen most, of Ancient Families, some of plentiful Fortunes, but all of resolute Spirits: These being suggested by the Devil, and seconded by his Agents, the Jesuits, to bring their purpose about, hired a Vault under the Parliament House, wherein they stowed Thirty six Barrels of Powder, with several Iron Warrs, to make the force of the fire more effectual, all which they covered with Billes, thinking thereby to have covered their Design, from being discovered: On the Fifth of November, the day of the Parliaments first sitting, was the time appointed, to put their Design in execution; but Providence had ordered it otherwise, that those who intended mischief, should taste the effects of it; on the Evening before, came to the Lord Monteagle, a strange Letter, from a strange hand, by a strange Messenger; without Date to it, name at it, and ( to outward appearance ) sense in it: A Letter which when it was opened, was even still sealed, such the affected obscurity therein: The Letter contained these words,

My Lord,

Out of the Love I bear to some of your Friends, I have a care of your preservation; therefore I would advise you, as you tender your Life, to devise some excuse to shift off your attendance at this Parliament: For God and Man have concurred to punish the wickedness of this time. And think not lightly of this Advertisement, but retire your self into your Country, where you may expect the Event in safety: for though there be no appearance of any stir, yet I say, they shall receive a terrible blow this Parliament, and yet they shall not see who hurts them: This counsel is not to be Contemned, because it may do you good, and can do you no harm; for the danger is past so soon as you have burnt the Letter; and I hope God will give you the grace to make good use of it: to whose holy Protection I commend you.

This Letter being communicated to the King, he expounds the mystical Blow, to be meant by Gun-powder, and thereupon commanded the Rooms under the Parliament House to be searcht, where the Mystery of Iniquity was quickly discovered, some of the Traitors taken in London, others in the Country; the hands of Justice overtaking them, they became examples of Justice, and tasted of that

*The Life and Death of Mother Shipton.*

48

that Cup (though not with that Cruelty) which they intended others should have drank of.

The British Olive next shall twine,  
In Marriage with the German Vine.

By the British Olive, is meant the Lady Elizabeth, Daughter to King James; and by the German Vine, the most Illustrious Prince Frederick, Count Palatine of the Rhine; this Lady Elizabeth was enriched with all the endowments both of Body and mind, which make to the compleating of a Princess; most dearly beloved of the English; as one that deserved well of all; hear a wit of that age thus complaining.

Most sweet Elizabeth! that happy Name,  
If we lost nothing else by losing thee,  
So dear to England is, we are too blame:  
If without tears and sighs we parted be.

They were married with great solemnity, at Westminster, February 14, Anno 1612.

The Ninth to Death his Power shall yield.  
Death Conquers all, he wins the Field.

This is meant of Prince Henry, who is called the Ninth, in regard that if he had lived till King James dyed, he would have been the Ninth King of that name, since the Conquest: He was a Prince of most excellent parts, not wanting any thing wherewith Nature and Art could enrich him; of a very pious disposition, never heard by any alife to swear an Oath, for which Arch-Bishop Abbot commended him in his Funeral Sermon, the Prince being wont to say, That he knew no Game or value to be wonne or lost, that could be worth an Oath. He died of an extraordinary burning Feaver, being generally lamented of the whole Land.

C H A P.

## C H A P. XIV.

The Prophesies of the Reign of King Charles the First, his Marriage with France, the Murther of the Duke of Buckingham, the Scottish Troubles, of the Long Parliament, and Bloody War ensuing after the execrable Murther of the King.

**M**other Shipton having proceeded thus far in her Prophesies, broke off abruptly with a deep sigh, the tears trickling down her Cheeks, accompanied with the wringing of her hands, as if some extraordinary mischance had befallen her. The Abbot wondered greatly what should be the cause of this sudden alteration, having observed all along before a settled composedness in her countenance, and now to break out into such exclamations: He therefore thus said unto her, Mother Shipton, it is more than some ordinary matter which hath made you to break out into this sudden passion, and if it may not be troublesome unto you, I shall desire, that as hitherto you have not been scrupulous in revealing those secrets unto me, which have wrought in me both wonder and amazement, so that now you will not so abruptly break off, as to leave me in suspense of the cause of your sorrow; Ah Mr. Abbot ( said she ) who can with dry eyes repeat what must next ensue, or but think upon it without a heart full of Agony, to see virtue trampled on, and vice exalted; Beggars on Horse-back, and Princes on Foot; the Innocent condemned, and the Blood-thirsty go free. But since my promise binds me to fulfil your request, I shall proceed where I left.

*The*

The Crown then fits the White King's Head,  
Who with the Lillies soon shall wed;  
Then shall a Peasants bloody knife,  
Deprive a great Man of his Life.  
Forth from the North shall mischief blow,  
And English Hob shall add thereto.  
Then shall the Council great Assemble,  
Who shall make great and small to tremble.  
Mars shall rage as he were wood,  
And Earth shall drunken be with blood,  
The white King then ( O grief to see)  
By Wicked Hands shall Murdered be.

These lines are so plain, relating to the Actions of the late times, as shall need no Oedipus to explain them; however, as we have all a long before made several Comments upon her Text we shall here likewise proceed in the same Method as we did before.

The Crown then fits the white King's Head.

By the White King, is meant King Charles the first, so called not only in respect of the purity and uprightness of his life, signified by white; but also that at the time of his Coronation he was clothed in White, which some benemous tongues have since urged against him, that he was not Crowned as other Kings, as if Princes might not have the same liberty as meaner persons, to assume what coloured Garb they list to wear, to themselves.

Who with the Lillies soon shall wed.

Somewhat before King James his Death a marriage was concluded on betwixt Prince Charles, and the Lady Henrietta Maria, daughter to that Martial Prince Henry the fourth King of France; but before the Consummation thereof, King James dyed, not long after his Funerals were over, she was brought into England, and solemnly married to King Charles, who is hereupon said to wed the Lillies, the Lillies being the Armes of France.

Then shall a Peasants bloody Knife,  
Deprive a great man of his Life.

This is spoken of the Duke of Buckingham, the greatest man in favour of those times, and thereupon (as it is most commonly seen) most hated of the People; who laid the blame of all miscarriages in the State upon him; right or wrong he was sure to undergo their censure.

censure: Being made General for the Relief of Rochel) then besieged by the French forces (before he embarked at Portsmouth, he was most villainously snatched by one Falcon a discontented Officer in his army; who was so far from flying for the same, that though he might have passed away undiscovered, he boldly abowed himself to be the man that did it; alledging that he had therein done his Country good service; but before his death, was better principled, and made sensible of the heinousness of the sin of Murther, recanting his former erroneous Principles, and dying very penitently, being hanged in Chains at Portsmouth, Anno 1627.

Forth from the North shall mischief blow,  
And English Hub shall add thereto.

This Prophecie alludes to that ancient Proverbe, From the cold North all ill comes forth; and may be understood of our troubles commencing in 1639, taking their original rise from Scotland, and fomented by several factious spirits in England, the Dragon of Presberty beginning then to appear in its own colours, the Kirk of Scotland having so high an opinion of its own purity, that it participated more of Moses his Platform in the Mount, than other Protestant Churches, being a Reformed Reformation; so that the practice thereof might be divertory to others, and the fit to gide, not take, write, nor receive Copies from any neighbouring Church; desiring that all others were like unto them, save only in their afflictions. Whereupon they stood so high upon their parroffes, that they refused the Common-prayer, disclaimed their Bishops, raised tumults, and under the pretence of defending the Scottish Kirk, raised a war against the English State, the venom of which poison so infected the veins of the English, who followed this Scottish President, that it brake forth into a most bitter war, and ended not, but with the deaths of many thousands of people.

Then shall the Council great assemble,  
Who shall make great and small to tremble.

By the great Council is meant the long-lasting Parliament, so known to all posterity, for the remarkable transactions therein: It began November the 3d 1640, and may more properly be said to be the Parliament that wrought wonders, than that in the time of King Henry the Third, which had the same appellation. By them fell the wise Stafford, and reverend Laud, by them was

Episcopacy

Episcopacy voted down, and Presbyterie voted up; by them was the common-prayer denied, and the Directory exalted: they were the first that brought that strange Nidde into the world, that a man might fight for, and against his King; by them was the Death Ex Officio condemned and the covenant (far worse) applauded; in sum, by them was the Church and State turned topsy turvey; but this cannot be reported of all amongst them, many of them hated their doings, dissented from them, and suffered by them.

Mars shall rage as he were wood,  
And Earth shall drunken be with blood.

To repeat all the skirmishes, fights, and battles that have happened betwixt the Kings and Parliaments Forces here intended by this Propheste (would of its self, require a volume, in some of which, viz. that at Marston-more eight thousand men were killed at a time, so that the Earth might well be said to be drunken with their blood; and which is the more pity, was shed by English men of one Country, Citizens against Citizens, Neighbours against Neighbours, nay, one Binsman against another, and prosecuted with the greatest vigor that might be, according to that of the Poet.

The highest fury reigns in Civil warr,  
And Country men in fight most cruel are.

As was berifed all a long during our unnaturall Civil war, none holding out with more obstinacy, fighting more eagerly, nor in the execution more bloody than they!

The White King then (O grief to see)  
By wicked hands shall Murthered be.

Spoken concerning the execrable Murther of that Pious Prince King Charles the First, the most renowned for Piety, Prudence and Patience; of all his contemporary Princes throughout the whole world; of whom when all is said that can be spoken, yet doth all come far short of his deserved praises: I shall therefore sum up all with this Epitaph made on him by a learned Pen.

He that can spell a Sigh, and read a Tear,  
Pronounce amazement, and accent wild Fear:  
Having all grief by Heart; He, only he,  
Is fit to Write and Read thy Elegie.  
Unvalued Charles! thou art so hard a Text,  
Writ in one Age, nor understood i'th Next.

## C H P. XV.

The Reign of King Charles the second ; the Usurpation of Cromwell ; the strange Confusions of a Democratical Government ; the Restoration of the King ; the great Sicknes ; the Burning of the City of London.

The White King dead, the Wolf shall then,  
With blood possess the Lyons den.  
But Death shall hurry him away,  
Confusion shall a while bear sway:  
But Fate to England shall restore,  
A King to Reign as heretofore.  
Mercy, and Justice too, likewise,  
Hein his time shall exercise.  
Great Death in London shall be though,  
And Men on tops of Houses go.

These Prophesies being all fulfilled in the memory of man, and so well known unto the World, we shall be the briefer in the explanation of them.

The White King dead, the Wolf shall then,  
With blood possess the Lyons den.

By the White King ( as we said before ) is meant King Charles the First ; and by the Wolf, Oliver Cromwell, so termed by reason of his bloody disposition ; that beast being judged most greedy and ravenous of all others ; and therefore fitly resembled to Cromwell, whose ambition was such, that he less no means unattempted, until he had got into the Lyons den, that is to say, until he had attained the sole Government ; which being done, he then plucked the Scairs down by which he had mounted, turning the Rump out of doors, making them his Servants, who had formerly been his Masters ; exercising his cruelty upon Caballiers, which he deemed double Policy, as being thereby rid of his Enemies, and enriching his Coffers with their Wealth, though it were in effect but Plunder and Robbery, and Proclaimed him to be a Blood-thirsty-Eprant.

But Death shall hurry him away.

Very remarkable was the day in which the Protector dyed, being the Third of September Anno 1658, wherein the wind was so violent, that it overthrew many Houses, tore up many Trees by the Roots, tumbled down Chimneys, and unread'd Barns and Stables; but as it is a very ill wind that blows none good, so with all the hurt this wind did, it made some recompence, in blowing this bloody Tyrant away, which made the people so little sensible of their losses, that they thought their private harms not to stand in competition with this general good.

Confusion shall a while bear sway.

Spoken in respect of the Confusion of Governments we then had: First, a Rump Parliament, then a Protector, next a Rump Parliament agen, then a Fools Bauble, called a Committee of Safety, afterwards a Rump Parliament agen; now thus, then that, a great many Governments, and none good.

But Fate to England shall restore,  
A King to Reign as heretofore.

This was fulfilled in the happy Restoration of King Charles the Second, which put a period to all those Oligarchical Confusions, and Restored the Land to its Ancient pristine Government; which till then, groaned under the pressures of a Company of Mechanical (and therein the worst sort of) Tyrants.

Mercy and Justice too likewise,  
He in his time shall exercise.

Of this many are the examples which might be produced; how many, though notorious Delinquents, received to Mercy? Life given to those, who would have taken his life away; few only suffering, but such whose offences were so Capital, as could not come well within the Werge of a Pardon, or stood upon Justification of their former execrable Actions: Such rotten members deserving to be cut off from the body of the Common-wealth, who otherwise would have been very Obnoxious and prejudicial to those that were sound.

Great Death in London shall be though.

Verified by the great Plague in London 1665 (which for number) was the greatest that hath been known in these latter Centuries of years, and which (if not any thing else) might convince our Sectaries, how necessary that prayer in the Letany is for to be used; From Plague, Pestilence and Famine, good Lord deliver us.

And



And Men on tops of Houses go.

This was suddenly fulfilled in that great Conflagration of Fire, which happened in London, Sept. 2.3. and 4. Anno 1666. by which so many Houses were destroyed, that men afterwards in the Ruins went on the tops of those Houses, whose lofty Structures not long before seemed to brabe the Skie, and which would dazzle weak eyes to look up and behold the tops of them.

The Fiery year as soon as o're,  
Peace shall then be as before.

A Phenix City in strange wise,  
Shall out of fatal Ashes rise.

These predictions were exactly accomplished by the Peace concluded with the Dutch soon after 1666, called here properly the Fiery year, and the wonderful Rebuilding of the City of London to greater Magnificence than ever in so short a space.

When

## The Life and Death of Mother Shipton.

49

When Mars again unsheathes his Sword,  
Your Treacherous Friends small Aid afford:  
Great noise there shall be heard, great shouts and cries,  
And Seas shall thunder louder than the Skies.

This alludes to the second Dutch War, wherein the French pretended to be Friends to the English, but afforded them small Aid, but in truth basely deserted them in the Engagements at sea, where the Canons were louder than Thunder.

A Boat a Boat, look thwart the Thames,  
The Southern Pile is all on Flames.

This can be understood of nothing but the great Fire in Southwark, wherein the best part of the Burrough, which she calls the Southern Pile, was Consumed.

The World's in Arms, and ill at ease,  
Another World looks on in Peace.

The happy Isle shall freely Trade,  
While Blood and horror mighty Realms invade.

This was happily as to England verified in the year 1677. when she only stood looking on in Peace, and enjoyed freedom of Trade, whilst all the rest of Europe were fiercely engaged in War.

Here follow other Prophesies she uttered, which seem to foretel the overthrow of the French, or some great disaster to that Nation, with several other Revolutions; but because they concern future times, we shall leave the Interpretation to Time and the Intelligent Reader.

### I.

The Eagle Droops, and Moults his Wings,  
And fewds shall grow between Northern Kings.  
Holland is threatened, Spain doth pine,  
And Blood shall swell the Rapid Rhyne.

### II.

When once the Orange and the Rose  
Unite, beware old Englands Foes.

### III.

Tis done, no more shall Monsieurs pride  
Triumphant over Nations Ride.  
The Meteor falls, and scarce shall have  
A mourning Tear, or Christian Grave.

The

*The Life and Death of Mother Shipton.*

III.

The Lillies now bewair their loss,  
And serve but to Adorn the Cross.

V.

The work's begun, but would you see  
The Harvest Ripe, joyn eight to three.  
The Northern Star at last appears,  
And an All-conquering Banner bears.

VI.

Howl, howl, you miscreants, all your deeds  
Shall now receive their worthy Meeds ;  
But long e're this poor Shipton Sleeps  
In her safe Grave, and Europe weeps.

This Mother Shipton, the Authoress of these and the foregoing Prophesies, libed till she was of an extraordinary Age, and though she was generally belished to be a Witch, yet all persons whatsoever that either read or heard her Prophesies, have esteemed them little less than Zaculous, and her Memory to this day is much Honoured by those of her own Countrey.

F I N I S.

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